

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 2617 – SB 2639

February 29, 2016

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Requires the Division of Parks and Recreation to designate one weekend per year, instead of one day, to allow free of charge access to all state parks including campgrounds and golf courses for veterans.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Decrease State Revenue – Exceeds \$10,700

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (011733): Deletes all language of the original bill. Creates the Office of Veterans Comprehensive Services Grant Administration (OVCSGA) within the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) to identify and provide financial grants to nonprofit corporations that provide comprehensive services to veterans in the state. Requires the Commissioner of the DVS to hire a director for the OVCSGA within 60 days of the enactment of the bill. Requires such director to hire an assistant director. Requires the OVCSGA to disburse grants to nonprofit veteran comprehensive service providers in this state.

Creates a Veteran Faith-Based Initiatives Office (VFBIO) within the DVS to identify churches, religious organizations, and nonprofit religious corporations including, but not limited to entities providing counseling services, support groups, and seminars to veterans and their families. Requires the Commissioner of the DVS to hire a director or obtain a person to perform the director's duties within 60 days of the enactment of the bill. Authorizes the Commissioner to contract with a private party to perform director's duties or issue a grant for the duties to a person or nonprofit corporation. Requires the hiring of an assistant director for such office.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Increase State Expenditures – \$31,200/One-Time
\$1,466,800/Recurring

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

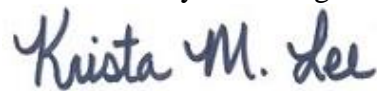
- The bill as amended creates the Office of Veterans Comprehensive Services Grant Administration (OVCSGA) and the Veteran Faith-Based Initiatives Office (VFBIO) within the DVS.

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- Based on the information provided by DVS, the one-time increase in state expenditures for establishing office space for two new divisions is estimated to be \$31,200 (\$15,000 office furniture + \$16,200 technology).
- Based on the information provided by DVS, the recurring costs for seven additional personnel (two directors, two assistant directors, two administrative assistants, and one auditor) and operational expenses for the two divisions is estimated to be \$466,842 (\$299,000 salaries + \$113,626 benefits + \$54,216 other).
- Based on the amount used for the Veterans Reconnect Grant that is issued to institutions establishing new veteran programs, it is estimated that an annual grant of \$1,000,000 will be provided by the OVCSGA to nonprofit corporations that provide comprehensive services to veterans in the state.
- The total recurring increase in state expenditures is estimated to be \$1,466,842 (\$1,000,000 grant funds + \$466,842 salaries, benefits, operational expenses).

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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